transparent; the front side electrode or the rear side electrode is divided into a plurality of electrode regions on its substrate surface so as to form pixel portions and interline portions, the liquid crystal layer in said interline portions remains in a focalconic state, and the maximum space a (μm) between adjacent electrode regions and the thickness d (μm) of the liquid crystal layer satisfy a relational formula of $1.0 \cdot d \leqq a \leqq 4.0 \cdot d$.

2. (Amended) A liquid crystal display element comprising a front side substrate having a front side electrode, a rear side substrate having a rear side electrode and a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween wherein the liquid crystal layer is a chiral nematic liquid crystal layer comprising a nematic liquid crystal and an amount of chiral dopant sufficient to provide reflection of visible light and that exhibits a plurality of display states; a display state is changed by a voltage applied across the electrodes, and at least one state among the display states is maintained stably, the liquid crystal display element being characterized in that at least a part of the front side electrode and the front side substrate is transparent; the front side electrode or the rear side electrode is divided into a plurality of electrode regions on its substrate surface so as to form pixel portions and interline portions, the liquid crystal layer in said interline portions remains in a focalconic state; the maximum space a (μm) between adjacent electrode regions, the thickness d (μm) of the liquid crystal layer, and the maximum effective voltage V_{max}(V) of a voltage applied to the front side electrode and the rear side electrode satisfy a relational formula of $1.0 \cdot d \leqq a \leqq d \cdot V_{max}/10$.

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS

The amendment to Claims 1 and 2 is supported throughout the specification and in, particular, by the Examples. Note, for example, Examples 1 and 2 which utilize a mixture of nematic liquid crystal and optically active compounds where the optically active compounds are present in an amount sufficient to provide reflection of visible light. Note also Figures 2